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From: Rhonda Rothrock [mailto:woodthrusheola8@netscape.net]

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 10:36 AM

To: Public Hearing

Subject: Please say no to the Bank of Walmart

Dear Ms. Bair:

If you have ever shopped at a Wal-Mart, you will have gotten a clear view of the average income level of workers there. A large number of these folks live from paycheck to paycheck, taking advantage of state and federal programs when ever possible. Who can blame them, when their employer works to keep them only slightly above the poverty line. These folks can't afford health care, retirement plans, or to own a home on what Wal-Mart pays them. At best they can use their meager Wal-Mart discount to purchase food and dry goods at a more affordable price. The pay Wal-Mart gives them, comes right back to Wal-Mart, convenient.

Now think back to the days of "the Company Store", when Americans worked for businesses that paid them with vouchers good only at the company. The folks rented "Company housing", shopped at "Company stores", and were akin to indentured servants.

Jump back to the present, many if not most companies now require direct deposit of payroll. Employees have little or no choice on this issue. Many folks just starting out can barely afford the minimum balances and charges attached to checking and saving accounts.

Wal-Mart might state that they have "no plans to enter full-service banking" but what would keep them from doing so, their word? Besides the basic threat to local community banks, it seems obvious that Wal-Mart would require their employees to bank at their Bank. It might be impossible for them to force the issue but if they forced direct deposit, it's ludicrous to think they would not require direct deposit into their banking system. Wal-Mart as a charge card and/or lending institute is then just one charter away. This would have the effect of turning Wal-Mart into one of those near feudalistic "Company stores". It's just too much power and control for one company to have, only a step away from the United State of Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart is quick to remind critics that another retailer, Target Stores, also holds a banking charter. But a Wal-Mart bank would pose risk to the FDIC and American fiscal security due to its sheer size. Target's FY 2006 revenues were \$52 billion, only one-sixth the size of Wal-Mart's. A

Wal-Mart ILC would dwarf those managed by any of the other companies that currently hold charters.

Please say no to the Bank of Wal-Mart.

Thank you.